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lation, the rulings of the courts, and numerous subterfuges, render such legislation comparatively futile.

The responsibility for the enforcement of the laws is divided between eight departments—three of the state and five of the city government—which for the most part act without any plan of coöperation. A permanent unsalaried commission appointed by the governor or mayor is necessary in order to exercise that vigilance which is the price of public safety and which must be not too inferior to the vigilance of the powers that prey, and which shall supply not only to legislators but to the public an adequate knowledge of conditions.

EDWARD C. HAYES.

*Responsibility for Crime.* By PHILIP A. PARSONS. (New York: Longmans, Green & Company. 1909. Pp. 194.)

Dr. Parsons has written an extremely readable study of crime and the criminal from the standpoint of Professor Giddings' explanation of society as "a product of like response to stimuli." So long as sociologists disagree in regard to the adequacy of this explanation, a work whose conclusions are based upon it is destined to meet with dissent in certain quarters. Moreover, as long as our statistical data in regard to crime remain so inadequate that we find great difficulty in answering the question whether crime has increased in the United States in the last decade or two, just so long will some of the important problems of penal science remain unsolved. Yet, despite these considerations, Dr. Parsons states with the utmost confidence propositions in regard to which, at the present stage of our knowledge, there may easily be a wide difference of opinion.

He emphatically denies the possibility of reforming the criminal and bids us to abandon the attempt. Instead he advocates the segregation and permanent detention of the culprit, the immediate withdrawal of all his rights and privileges as a citizen, and the devolution of his property to the next of kin (p. 154). In this plan no provision apparently is made for a difference in the treatment to be accorded to prisoners convicted of widely different offences. All sentences, at least, are for life.

The position which Dr. Parsons thus assumes rests upon the theory, which he fails to demonstrate, that hereditary influences are much more potent than environmental conditions in the production of the criminal. Until penologists have made greater use than they have

hitherto done of the results achieved in the field of genetic psychology and until a much larger number of well-selected concrete cases have been observed and tabulated, the question as to the relative influence of heredity and environment in producing the criminal will doubtless remain unsettled. In the meantime, therefore, a position definitely based on either view of the matter is manifestly hazardous. If an opinion confessedly subject to correction may be ventured, we are inclined to the belief that Dr. Parsons has greatly underrated the importance of environment. We readily admit that crime is to be explained as the natural result of social and physical causes, and that there are persons who come into the world possessing tendencies which render them especially susceptible to those stimuli which lead to the commission of crime. But this position is not inconsistent with the belief that if organized society replaces such stimuli with more wholesome ones at a sufficiently early stage in the career of the criminal, a reformation can in most cases be accomplished. At all events it would seem to be better to demonstrate that reformation is an impracticable dream before embracing the fatalistic doctrine or adopting the anti-individualistic plan which Dr. Parsons advocates.

J. M. MATHEWS.

*A History of the Irish Parliamentary Party.* By F. HUGH O'DONNELL. (London: Longmans, Green and Company, 1910. 2 volumes. Pp. xiii, 508, and viii, 494.)

These two bulky volumes constitute a merciless arraignment of the Irish Parliamentary Party by one who was closely connected with Irish affairs during the period in question. The writer says in his preface: "From the very first intimately associated with, or advantageously placed to observe, all the most important leaders and leading adherents of the parties and movements between 1870 and 1895 in particular; long resident in the great capitals of Europe and acquainted with their politicians and diplomatists; I had opportunities of exact information, which have never been enjoyed by any previous writer on recent Irish affairs." The author writes "as a Nationalist who maintains the whole of the rights" of his country, but who "equally recognises that Englishmen are patriots."

Mr. O'Donnell is apparently quite out of tune with most of the men who dominated Irish affairs from 1870 to 1890. He finds little comfort